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SIPDIS

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ABUJA FOR RSO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: GERMAN DIPLOMATIC VEHICLE ATTACKED IN LAGOS

1. SUMMARY: On 02/19/2005, armed gunmen in Lagos attacked a German Consulate armored vehicle. The German vehicle sustained damage however the German Consulate driver was able to evade the attackers and return to Victoria Island. No injuries were reported.

2. DETAILS: On 02/23/2005, RSO was advised through a Canadian security contact of an incident, which occurred over the weekend involving a German Consulate vehicle, bearing red diplomatic tags (52CD77), being attacked and fired upon in Lagos. On 02/24/2005, RSO Lagos visited the German Consulate and spoke with their Anti-Fraud consular officer, who was a passenger in the vehicle during this incident. RSO was also permitted to inspect the vehicle involved. RSO was advised of the following information:

At approximately midnight, 02/22/2005, a German Consulate armored vehicle (a Mercedes Benz model G320, similar to a SUV, level of armor appears to be similar to our FAV level) was returning to Victoria Island after an evening visit to the international airport. While passing through the Oshodi neighborhood a minivan bus, white in color and possibly marked as a city public transportation bus, stopped directly in front of the German vehicle and two black males (no further description) alighted from the minivan with shoulder weapons (no further description). One male fired at least one round into the air and the other male immediately fired into the front right tire of the German vehicle. The Mercedes-Benz was equipped with run-flat tires, which appear to have functioned very well. The German Consulate driver reacted by immediately driving around the vehicle and proceeding onto the Third Mainland Bridge toward Victoria Island. The minivan pursued the vehicle onto the bridge and continued to fire upon the German vehicle. It is believed at least six to eight individuals were in the minivan. The German vehicle sustained damage to the front right and the left rear tires and at least eight rounds struck the lower body of the German vehicle. One round dented but failed to penetrate the reinforced fuel tank. No rounds penetrated the vehicle passenger compartment. The minivan ceased its pursuit of the German vehicle somewhere on the Third Mainland Bridge prior to Ikoyi Island. The German Consulate advised they have reported this incident to the police authorities.

3. RSO Lagos was also advised that on 02/14/2005, a representative from the German Consulate had delivered a deportee to the authorities at the airport and had been threatened by this deportee's associates while at the airport. At this time it cannot be confirmed whether or not these two incidents are related.

4. The German Consulate has temporarily banned all travel to the Lagos mainland. RSO Lagos was advised that they would implement a security escort vehicle with armed police for future movements to the mainland.

5. RSO COMMENT: RSO cannot comment regarding the motive of the attackers or whether this incident was a crime of opportunity, specifically targeted a German Consulate vehicle or the individuals in the vehicle, or specifically targeted a diplomatic vehicle. This route is the primary route between the Lagos diplomatic consulates and the airport and no alternate routes are realistic during the evening hours. The original attack site, Oshodi, is an extremely critical crime area with no police presence at night however other possible routes only lead through similar or even more dangerous neighborhoods. The German vehicle was not accompanied with an escort vehicle. Our standard for evening travel to the airport remains at an armored vehicle accompanied by a LGF Mobile Patrol vehicle occupied by two LGF and two armed police officers. RSO Lagos has discussed this incident with several security representatives from other consulates and all have agreed to maintain our security meetings and frequent contact to facilitate the exchange of security related information.

6. RSO will report via SEPTTEL and significant information developed. The point of contact in this matter is RSO Kevin Maloy at (office) 234-1-261-1303.

